

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 /074 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSE:RLW

7/11/73 EXT 20870

APPROVED BY EA:RLSNEIDER

EB/OA/AVP:JSILBERSTEIN

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R 112246Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135792

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NZ, ANZUS, SEATO, OVIP, ETRN

SUBJ: CALL BY NZ AMBASSADOR: PROTEST ON AIR FARES

1. SUMMARY. ON JULY 10 NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR LLOYD WHITE CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE GODLEY TO PRESENT AIDE MEMOIRE PROTESTING USG UNWILLINGNESS TO APPROVE INCREASED AIR FARES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. HE ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY PM KIRK'S PROJECTED VISIT TO THE US, THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ANZUS MEETING AT WELLINGTON IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR WHITE BEGAN BY PRESENTING A FIVE-PAGE AIDE MEMOIRE THAT OUTLINED THE VIEWS OF GNZ ON US INACTION IN RESPECT TO A SCHEDULED 5 PERCENT INCREASE OF BASIC AIR FARES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. WHITE DESCRIBED US POSITION AS MOTIVATED BY THOSE OF THE COST OF LIVING COUNCIL IN RESPECT TO DOMESTIC PRICE FREEZE. HE STATED THAT AGREEMENT FOR INCREASE WAS ARRIVED AT IN INTERNATIONAL  
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CONTEXT AND COULD NOT BE OVERRULED AT THIS POINT BY ANY

DOMESTIC AGENCIES OF ANY OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.  
DOMESTIC LAW CANNOT OVERRIDE PRIOR OBLIGATION, WHITE STATED.  
MATTER HAD ALREADY BEEN PURSUED BY GNZ THROUGH THOSE  
SPECIALIZING IN AVIATION AFFAIRS. MATTER WAS NOW  
BECOMING A GENERAL IRRITANT TO US/NZ RELATIONS AND HIS

GOVERNMENT HAD THEREFORE DECIDED THAT MATTER SHOULD BE  
RAISED AT POLITICAL LEVEL. IN GNZ VIEW, HE STATED, IT  
ESSENTIAL THAT NEW FARE PACKAGE BE INTRODUCED ASAP AND  
CERTAINLY NO LATER THAN FIRST OF AUGUST. (FYI. CAB AND  
DEPT. STATE HAVE URGED COST OF LIVING COUNCIL TO EXEMPT  
INTERNATIONAL AIR FARE FROM PRICE FREEZE, HOPEFULLY  
COUNCIL WILL ACQUIRE SOON, IN WHICH CASE THIS ISSUE  
WILL BE RESOLVED. END FYI.)

3. AMBASSADOR WHITE MENTIONED FACT THAT DATES SUGGESTED  
BY PM KIRK FOR CALL ON PRESIDENT NIXON COINCIDED WITH  
SEATO COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NEW YORK. HE GAVE  
IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED BY THIS FACT.  
(IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH COUNTRY DIRECTOR MOSER,  
WHITE STATED THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THAT PM KIRK WOULD BE  
PERSONALLY ATTENDING SEATO MEETING, AND GAVE IMPRESSION  
THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TRY AND WORK OUT SCHEDULE OF  
CALL ON PRESIDENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WOULD NOT  
PRECLUDE KIRK'S PARTICIPATION IN SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN  
NEW YORK.)

4. AMBASSADOR WHITE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED  
OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN US CHARGE IN WELLINGTON AND  
PM KIRK ON POSSIBILITY OF A NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER ANZUS  
COUNCIL MEETING IN WELLINGTON. HIS GOVERNMENT HAD  
INSTRUCTED HIM, HE SAID, TO SUPPORT THIS CONCEPT. ROGERS

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